

FISCAL NOTE

SB 979 - HB 809

March 6, 2001

SUMMARY OF BILL: Amends TCA 49-3-365 to provide that *break-the-mold* schools shall be *charter* schools. Charter schools would be authorized by local boards of education and approved by the State Board of Education. The State Board of Education or the local board of education would have the authority to terminate charter schools that are not producing results.

Current law states: "In addition to basic education program funds otherwise available under this chapter, there is hereby authorized an additional fund for the purpose of establishing *break-the-mold* schools, contingent upon federal implementation of such schools. Such additional fund shall be subject to annual appropriation and may be supplemented or provided exclusively by federal funds appropriated for this purpose."

Current law also provides that break-the-mold schools shall be public schools established in conformance with any federal program guidelines so as to be eligible to participate in the federal program. The break-the-mold school shall not be subject to the rules and regulations or policies of either the State Board of Education or the local board of education, and each school shall be approved by the Commissioner of Education according to a plan submitted on behalf of the school.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

MINIMAL

Estimate assumes that:

- changing the name from *break-the-mold* to *charter* would have no fiscal impact. These schools are already permitted under existing law.
- the shifting of oversight duties from the Commissioner of Education to the State Board of Education would not require additional state funds.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James A. Davenport, Executive Director

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